

# Ransomware mitigation as a service

Careful preparation is a business obligation

Ransomware has become a major threat to organizations of all types. While there is no 100% safety prevention available, you can still prepare yourself to reduce the impact of attacks.

**Cybercrime has become a professional business industry. Hacking organizations are well-structured, attack software is available as ready-to-go tools, and AI is used to create even more sophisticated attack methods. Today, no business can ignore these threats anymore.**

## The common threat

Every day, over 200,000 new ransomware strains are detected.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, ransomware attacks on industrial infrastructure doubled on a year-to-year comparison.<sup>2</sup> But attacks are not only increasing, they are also becoming more and more harmful each year. This alarming trend shows that ransomware is one of the most damaging, costly and common methods of attack for organizations not only in the EMEA region.

## Prevention and awareness

Every business needs to take this threat seriously and should implement proper prevention mechanisms and processes, such as malware detection, network security measures, and backup solutions.

End-user awareness is another crucial element of security since more than 90% of all attacks are based on a successful

phishing incident on user access data.<sup>3</sup> So, you should implement a process of regular end-user training as one important ransomware security measure.

## Recovery challenge

A ransomware attack is always a severe impact on your IT infrastructure and your business. Experience shows that it is a major challenge for companies to restore all IT systems in a short period of time. Hardware may not be usable due to pending forensic analysis requirements, security measures do not allow the re-use of existing systems, and vendors are not able to deliver new machines short-term. It can take weeks to restore even the most critical IT systems.

## Mitigation as the key to survive

While businesses are usually prepared for technical DC disasters, they are not well prepared for mitigation of ransomware attacks. Unfortunately, traditional Disaster Recovery (DR) precautions do not help after such attacks. Such solutions are designed to copy productive data right away and with the least possible time gap – which would include all potential ransomware poisoning.

Traditional backup processes don't provide comprehensive ransomware protection, either. You need a thorough integrity analysis before you can actually start your data restore.

<sup>1</sup> Dragos 2022 Year in Review

<sup>2</sup> SoSafe Cybercrime Trends, 2024

<sup>3</sup> Cybersecurity Ventures Ransomware Market Report, 2023

“ Leaders see ransomware attacks as virtually inevitable, driving a focus on mitigation rather than prevention.<sup>4</sup>

### Our solution: Fast reactivation as first aid

Therefore, we designed a solution which addresses exactly the special demand for ransomware mitigation. It provides a fast and automatic activation of a backup landscape with the most critical IT applications with

- highest possible separation of source and backup IT landscape
- regular data replication considering ransomware attack vectors
- utilization of public cloud benefits, such as automatic deployment and cost-saving standby resources
- highest degree of automation for cost efficiency and reliable disaster recreation processes

We use a self-developed standardized solution template with pre-defined automation routines. Still, customers can select their individual footprint of all business-critical IT applications. During the implementation, we adjust the setup to the specific requirements of the customer IT landscape.

### Highest degree of separation

The solution strictly separates the productive customer IT landscape from the backup environment. We use separate system management accounts, and data connection times between the platforms are limited to the data replication times of, typically, a few hours per day.

For data synchronization, we don't rely on any file copy, but leverage a special database replication mechanism. Furthermore, we shut down or don't even deploy IT systems at the public cloud backup platform when we don't need them. This provides the highest safety because what does not exist, cannot be attacked.

All these measures reduce the potential for attacks spreading from the company IT environment to the backup platform to the bare minimum.

### Fully automated restore

With our full automation approach, we deploy the target landscape without any manual interaction in case of a ransomware attack. This is important because your IT department will not have enough capacity available after such an event. Therefore, it is of high importance to bind your team as little as possible.

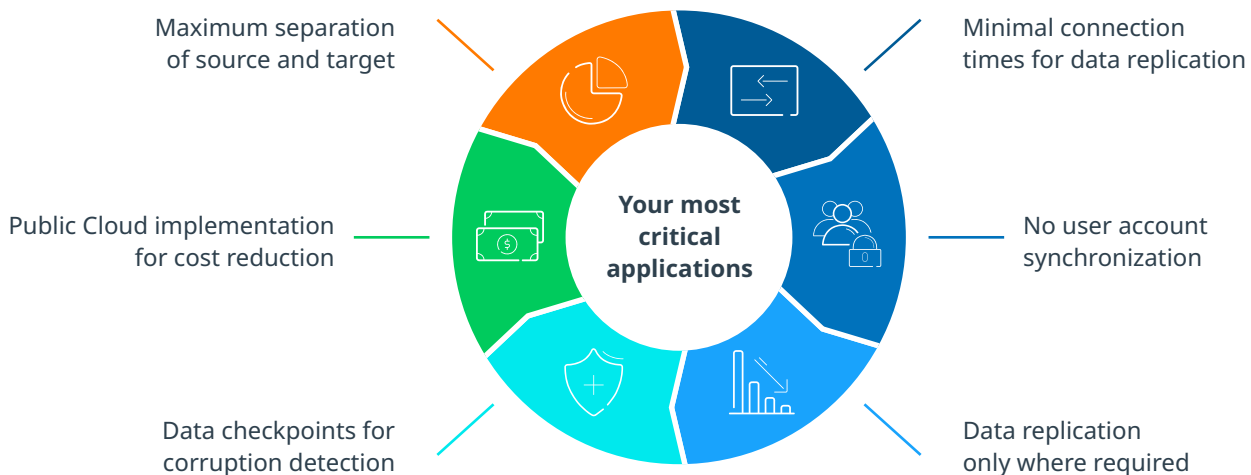
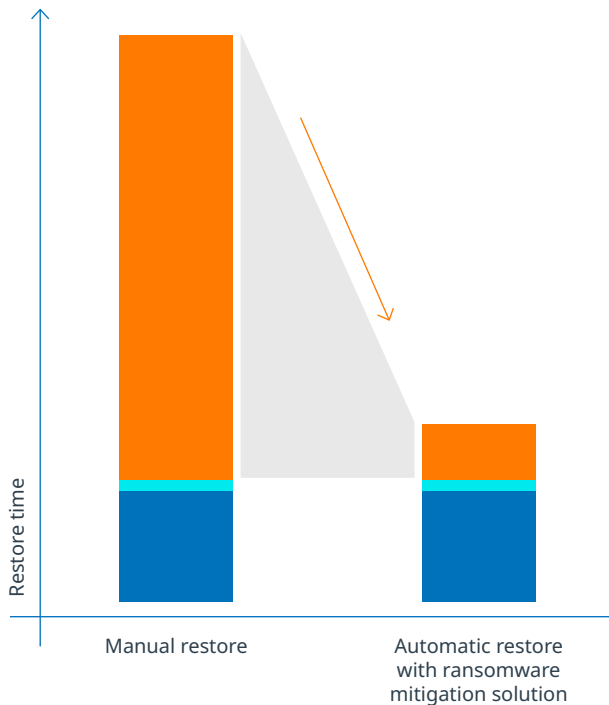


Fig. 1: Solution principles

<sup>4</sup> Mimecast State of Ransomware Readiness Report, 2022

But even regular data replication and monthly functional tests are performed fully automated. That reduces costs and increases the reliability of the solution.



**Fig. 2: Restore times significantly reduced with ransomware mitigation**

## Benefit of public cloud

The solution can be implemented on public clouds, such as Microsoft Azure or AWS. This prevents you from needing to undertake unnecessary hardware purchases and provides a professional and reliable IT platform for your backup solution.

The service comes as a fully managed solution, including all monitoring and continuous adjustments to changes in your production environment.

## Why NTT DATA Business Solutions?

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